

Henry Fork Section

Circulation and Access

Access to the Henry Fork section from the north was explored through this master planning process. Based on extensive studies of these areas by NC Division of Parks and Recreation staff and the consultant, neither vehicular nor trail access will be provided to the Henry Fork section of the park from the north. The following reasons justify this conclusion:

- 1) The old trails in this area have seven major stream crossings within the first mile of entry into the park. These streams are classified as *Outstanding Resource Waters*. In addition, the first mile of trail is subject to frequent flooding. Therefore, construction and maintenance of this trail for regular use would be expensive and environmentally damaging.
- 2) The relatively small reservoir was designed for water supply, not to support recreational use. It has extremely steep (65%+) and treacherous sides and a 35-foot high dam. Access to this reservoir would be ill-advised due to extreme concerns for public safety.
- 3) Access provided through this remote area would not serve to open the park to a significant new user base, as a Henry Fork entrance is no closer to any major population area than the current Jacob Fork parking area or proposed Clear Creek section entrance.

Potential Trail Development

Two old logging roads within the Henry Fork section may be suitable for use as trails pending additional erosion control and appropriate surfacing. They tend to parallel the river on each of its sides and have good grades. If converted to trails, these could provide approximately 14 miles or more of trail access within the Henry Fork section of the park.

Although these trails have been identified as suitable for equestrian use, accessibility to these trails from either of the other two sections of the park as well as connectivity between the trails themselves has not been identified. An assessment of this connectivity

is recommended through the comprehensive trails assessment described earlier in this document.

Due to the length of trail required to access the Henry Fork section, and the length of potential trails in this section, planning for back-country campsites in a reasonable location to trails will be included in the comprehensive trails assessment.



Stream confluence in Henry Fork section



Henry Fork Reservoir Dam